

first Preliminary Amendment canceling originally-filed claims 21-117 and leaving just originally-filed claims 1-20 pending (with an effective date of September 20, 2002); and (3) a second Preliminary Amendment further modifying the claims and leaving claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-19, and 118-144 pending (with an effective date of February 27, 2004). Applicants respectfully submit that it is these claims (i.e., claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-19, and 118-144 as presented by the second Preliminary Amendment) that should have been examined and that should now be examined.

More specifically, with regard to the action mailed from the Office on February 18, 2005, applicants provide the following detailed response, where the headings match the headings in the action.

Drawings

The action indicates that new corrected drawings are required because the present drawings are informal and contain hand-drawn elements. The action also indicates that corrected drawings are required in response to the action and that this requirement will not be held in abeyance.

In response, applicants note that twenty-one sheets of formal drawings without any hand-drawn elements were transmitted to the Office by Express Mail on September 20, 2002, and these formal drawings are part of the Office's file for this application as indicated by the Office's on-line PAIR records.

Accordingly, applicants submit that the corrected drawings requirement has already been met and that nothing additional need be filed in this regard at this time.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. Section 101

The action also indicates that claims 1-117 are directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In response, applicants note that originally-filed claims 1-117 are not the pending claims, and they were not the claims pending at the time of the action. Two Preliminary Amendments were submitted to the Office well before the action -- a first one canceling originally-filed claims 21-117 and leaving just originally-filed claims 1-20 pending was mailed to and received by the Office by Express Mail on September 20, 2002, and a second one making various claim modifications and leaving claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-19, and 118-144 pending was received by the Office on February 27, 2004. Both of these Preliminary Amendments are part of the Office's file for this application as indicated by the Office's on-line PAIR records. Accordingly, applicants submit that the wrong claims were examined and the currently- and then-pending claims should instead have been examined.

Consequently, applicants cannot respond in any detailed manner at this time but will of course respond with particularity when the actual pending claims are examined. However, applicants do respectfully submit that the claims previously and currently pending in this application meet the statutory subject matter requirement under 35 U.S.C. Section 101 because they involve a practical application and produce a useful, concrete and tangible result.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. Section 112

The action further indicates that claims 1-117 are rejected under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. Section 112. The action indicates that this rejection hinges on the rejection under 35 U.S.C. Section 101.

In response, applicants point to and reiterate here the comments above about the rejection under 35 U.S.C. Section 101.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, applicants request reconsideration and further examination consistent with this Response.

Respectfully submitted,



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